

National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 09/20/2002

DEN02LA029 File No. 12291	02/08/2002	Broomfield, CO	Aircraft Reg No. N434QS	Time (Local): 11:26 MST		
Make/Model:	Gulfstream Aerospace / G-IV			Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Engine Make/Model:	Rolls-Royce / 611-8 TAY		Crew	0	1	2
Aircraft Damage:	None		Pass	0	0	1
Number of Engines:	2					
Operating Certificate(s):	None					
Type of Flight Operation:	Executive/Corporate					
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation					
Last Depart. Point: San Jose, CA				Condition of Light: Day		
Destination: Broomfield, CO				Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility		
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip				Basic Weather: Visual Conditions		
				Lowest Ceiling: 20000 Ft. AGL, Broken		
				Visibility: 10.00 SM		
				Wind Dir/Speed: 300 / 008 Kts		
				Temperature (°C): 11		
				Precip/Obscuration: None / None		
Pilot-in-Command	Age: 54			Flight Time (Hours)		
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)				Total All Aircraft: 9862		
Airline Transport; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land				Last 90 Days: 153		
Instrument Ratings				Total Make/Model: 3005		
Airplane				Total Instrument Time: 491		

Air traffic control advised the flight crew of possible severe turbulence as they began the en route descent. The captain said she briefed the flight attendant as to the possibility of turbulence. As the airplane continued its descent, the captain turned on the "Fasten Seatbelt/No Smoking" sign. Shortly thereafter, the airplane encountered "severe turbulence." The flight attendant stated that he was out of his seat when he heard the "Fasten Seatbelt/No Smoking" chime. He returned to his seat, but was unable to fasten his seatbelt before the turbulence encounter and was thrown about. The flight crew heard the flight attendant screaming, but were unable to check him due to more demanding flight duties. Priority handling to the airport was requested, and emergency equipment was asked to stand by. The flight attendant was taken to a local hospital where X-rays revealed he had fractured his ankle bone. The flight attendant said he had no recollection of being briefed about possible turbulence by the flight crew.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - NORMAL

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE
2. (C) SEAT BELT - NOT SET - FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

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The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.  
the flight attendant's failure to fasten his seatbelt when warned of possible turbulence. A contributing factor was the severe turbulence.